

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended the specification to include the priority data. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. PRIORITY

Applicants have amended the present application to include specific reference to the parent and grandparent applications as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, applicants point out that the certified copy of the foreign priority application has been submitted in the grandparent application No. 09/369,815, now U.S. Patent No. 6,189,118.

II. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner notes in the Office Action that the IDS filed on February 20, 2004 has only been partially considered. The Examiner indicates that copies of the foreign references were not provided.

Applicants are not sure why copies of the foreign references were not provided to the Examiner, but apologize nevertheless for any inconvenience. Submitted herewith are copies of the foreign references and search reports, together with a clean PTO-1449 form listing the same. Consideration of the references is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Sakauri*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 2 each relate to an information reproduction method for an information recording medium. Claim 1 specifically recites how a management information area includes "an area for recording a physical sector number of a sector to which a logical sector number "0" is assigned". Claim 2 specifically recites how "a physical sector number of a sector to which a logical sector number "0" is assigned, ..., is recorded in the management information area".

Thus, claims 1 and 2 both relate to a feature of the present invention in which the management information area includes an area for recording a physical sector number of a sector to which a logical sector number "0" is assigned. The Examiner contends that *Sakauri* teaches such feature. Specifically, the Examiner refers to Fig. 5B and Fig. 6 as teaching such feature. Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Fig. 5B of *Sakauri* teaches a format in which a logical sector number "0" (LSN0) is incorporated. Applicants also agree with the Examiner that Fig. 6 of *Sakauri* teaches that a lead-in area (TOC) is provided directly proceeding the physical sector representing the logical sector "0" (LSN0).

Contrary to the Examiner's position, however, applicants respectfully submit that *Sakauri* does not teach or suggest recording in a management information area the physical sector number of the sector to which the logical sector number "0" is assigned as recited in claims 1 and 2.

For example, *Sakauri* teaches that the host computer 4 serves to write the information on the optical disk 1 so that a logical sector number LSN is set to have a header of a physical address "timecode" 00:02:00 sector. However, this certainly does not constitute recording in a management information area the physical sector number of the sector to which the logical sector number "0" is assigned. (See, e.g., Col. 3, Ins. 34-45).

While applicants agree with the Examiner that Fig. 5B of *Sakauri* illustrates a logical sector being assigned a logical sector number "0" (see LSN0), the TOC in Fig. 6 does not constitute a management area in which the physical sector number of the sector to which the logical sector number "0" has been assigned is recorded as recited in claims 1 and 2. The lead-in section TOC is written beginning before the physical address (time code) 00:00:00 and leads up to the LSN0. The lead-in section TOC includes all of the time code representing, respectively, a border position of each piece of information of the recording information area DE and a position of the lead-out section.

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Again, however, such information does not constitute recording in management area the physical sector number of a sector to which a logical sector number "0" is assigned.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that *Sakauri* does not teach or suggest the features recited in claims 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

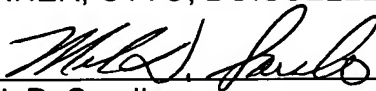
Claims 1 and 2 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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